

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JANUARY 30 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, WRITING IN JAN. 30 WASHINGTON POST, SAID VERIFICATION ISSUE "INEXORABLY DELAYED" SENATE DEBATE ON NEW SALT TREATY "PERHAPS INTO NEXT YEAR BEYOND 1978 ELECTIONS." CENTRAL TO VERIFICATION PROBLEM, THEY POINTED OUT, IS SOVIET BACK-FIRE BOMBER. SENATE INSISTS ON VERIFICATION THAT BACKFIRE WILL NOT BE INTERCONTINENTAL WEAPON, DIFFICULTY OF WHICH HAS STYMIED U.S.-SOVIET TALKS, EVANS AND NOVAK ASSERTED. "U.S. EFFORT TO BAR MODERNIZATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS, ANOTHER UNRESOLVED POINT, ALSO REVEALS LIMITS OF VERIFICATION." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID WHITE HOUSE HAD COUNTED ON UNCLASSIFIED

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SENATOR JOHN GLENN TO VOTE FOR RATIFICATION BUT AFTER ATTENDING SALT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA, GLENN "CAME AWAY WORRIED ABOUT VERIFICATION." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID UNLESS RESTRICTIONS ON USSR ARE MADE MORE VERIFIABLE THAN THEY ARE TODAY, GLENN WILL VOTE NO ON SALT TWO. "CONSEQUENTLY, SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE IN NO HURRY FOR SALT RATIFICATION DEBATE AND WOULD PREFER WAITING UNTIL AFTER

1978 ELECTIONS. THIS LACK OF HASTE IS ONE REASON WHY OLD CARTER ADMINISTRATION FORECAST THAT SALT TREATY WOULD BE INITIALED THIS MONTH IS NOW INOPERABLE." EVANS AND

NOVAK SAID SOVIET NEGOTIATORS ARE ADAMANT IN USING NON-VERIFIABLE ARGUMENT IN RESISTING U.S. DEMANDS TO PROHIBIT MODERNIZATION OF INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILES. THEY REPORTED THAT "ONE RECENT OFFICIAL CABLE BACK FROM GENEVA DESCRIBES THIS POSITION BY SOVIET NEGOTIATOR SHCHUKIN: 'FREEZING ANY IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING BALLISTIC MISSILES (FOR EXAMPLE, GUIDANCE) WAS IMPOSSIBLE AND UNVERIFIABLE. ANY MILITARY MAN WHO WANTED TO INTRODUCE IMPROVEMENTS TO HIS SYSTEM COULD DO SO, COULD NOT BE STOPPED, AND IT WAS ABSOLUTELY UNVERIFIABLE.' RUSSIANS ARE SAYING WE COULD NOT STOP OUR MILITARY IF WE WANTED TO." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE "IS KNOWN TO FEEL THERE MUST BE SOME MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE IN RUSSIAN GOOD FAITH. BUT IF SUCH CONFIDENCE IS ALL THAT IS NECESSARY, ENTIRE TEDIOUS PROCEDURE OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD SEEM SUPERFLUOUS. FACT IS THAT GLENN AND MANY OTHER FENCE-SITTING SENATORS LACK WARNKE'S MEASURE OF CONRIDENCE IN RUSSIANS, AND THAT IS BASIC REASON WHY ADMINISTRATION IS BY NO MEANS READY FOR SALT DEBATE IN SENATE."

2. HENRY BRADSHER REPORTED IN JAN. 28 WASHINGTON STAR THAT IN LETTER CIRCULATING ON CAPITOL HILL, AMBASSADOR UNCLASSIFIED

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WARNKE ARGUES AGAINST SELLING F-15 FIGHTERS TO SAUDI ARABIA OR ISRAEL. HIS LETTER WAS SENT TO SECRETARY VANCE BUT LEAKED TO CONGRESSIONAL OPPONENTS OF F-15 SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA, BRADSHER SAID. HE REPORTED THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF F-15 QUESTION AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL'S POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE. ANOTHER MEETING, HE SAID, IS SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK TO TRY TO AGREE ON RECOMMENDATION FOR SELLING F-15'S AND F-16'S TO ISRAEL AND F-5E'S TO EGYPT. HE SAID WARNKE WROTE LETTER BECAUSE HE HAD TO RETURN TO GENEVA FOR SALT NEGOTIATIONS AND COULD NOT PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING MEETINGS. SELLING F-15'S TO AN ARAB COUNTRY WILL NOT ONLY UNDERCUT ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS SALES RESTRAINT POLICY BUT ALSO CAUSE OTHER MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES TO SEEK PLANES IN AN ACTION-REACTION CYCLE, WARNKE REPORTEDLY WROTE. WARNKE REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED THAT BOTH ISRAELAND SAUDI ARABIA BE SOLD ONLY SINGLE-ENGINE F-16'S. ;WA NKE REPORTEDLY SAID ACDA IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT TWIN-ENGINE F-15 SALES IF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRE THEM, BUT HE SUGGESTED MITIGATING IMPACT BY NOT ALLOWING F-15'S TO BE EQUIPPED FOR AIR-TO-GROUND ATTACK. BRADSHER ALSO SAID WARNKE FAVORED CUT OF AT LEAST

7.5 PERCENT FROM CURRENT FISCAL YEAR'S TOTAL FOREIGN WEAPONS SALES. ANYTHING LESS, WARNKE REPORTEDLY SAID, WOULD FAIL TO CARRY OUT CARTER'S CAMPAIGN PROMISE TO SLOW SUCH SALES. BRADSHER SAID POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE GAVE CARTER THREE RECOMMENDATIONS: FIVE PERCENT, 7.5 PERCENT,

AND 10 PERCENT REDUCTION OVER NEXT TWO FISCAL YEARS.

3. HENRY BRADSHER, IN JAN. 29 WASHINGTON STAR, SAID WHITE HOUSE, STATE DEPARTMENT AND PENTAGON SUPPORT SALE OF F-15 JETS TO SAUDI ARABIA, BUT ACDA HAS OPPOSED IT. HE SAID STAR'S PUBLICATION OF WARNKE LETTER "ANGERED WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS. THEY FEARED IT WOULD BE USED AS AMMUNITION AGAINST SALE, ALTHOUGH LETTER HAD ALREADY BECOME KNOWN TO UNCLASSIFIED

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SOME CONGRESSIONAL OPPONENTS OF SALE." BRADSHER QUOTED KEY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL AS SAYING "THERE'S GOING TO BE BLOOD ON FLOOR" BEFORE DECISION IS REACHED ON SELLING F-15 EAGLE TO SAUDI ARABIA.

4. DAVID BURNHAM OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID CIA DISCLOSED THAT IT HAD CONCLUDED AS EARLY AS 1974 -- TWO YEARS EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY INDICATED -- THAT ISRAEL ALREADY HAD PRODUCED ATOMIC WEAPONS, PARTLY WITH URANIUM IT HAD OBTAINED "BY CLANDESTINE MEANS." BURNHAM SAID CIA DOCUMENT, SECRET NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE TITLED "PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS," ALSO PREDICTED THAT TAIWAN WOULD BE ABLE TO BUILD NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY 1979, THAT SOUTH AFRICA COULD GO FORWARD WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM IF SERIOUSLY THREATENED, AND THAT SPAIN, IRAN, EGYPT, PAKISTAN, BRAZIL AND SOUTH KOREA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BUILD BOMBS UNTIL AT LEAST 1984. FIVE-PAGE MEMORANDUM WAS DATED SEPT. 4, 1974.

5. JOHN FIALKA OF WASHINGTON STAR REPORTED THAT CIA DOCUMENT WAS MADE PUBLIC BY CIA ITSELF AS RESULT OF BUREAUCRATIC FOULUP. HE REPORTED AGENCY IS NOT SAYING HOW ERROR OCCURRED, LIMITING ITSELF TO ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT DOCUMENT'S RELEASE WAS MISTAKE. "BUT ONE STORY MAKING ROUNDS OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND NUCLEAR RELATED AGENCIES IS THAT CIA, ASKED BY ANOTHER AGENCY (DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY) WHETHER ANY PART OF FIVE-PAGE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT COULD BE MADE PUBLIC, INTENDED TO RELEASE JUST TWO PARAGRAPHS AND KEEP REST SECRET. INSTEAD, STORY GOES, IT RELEASED ALL EXCEPT TWO PARAGRAPHS." DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY QUERY TO CIA STEMMED FROM FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST BY S. JACOB SCHERR, ATTORNEY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, INC. UNCLASSIFIED

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6. ROBERT LYONS OF NEW YORK TIMES, REPORTING ON ACCELERATING ARMS RACES IN SPACE, SAID USSR HAS DEVELOPED HUNTER-KILLER SATELLITES, HAS EXPERIMENTED WITH ORBITAL BOMBARDMENT VEHICLES AND IS BELIEVED TO BE CONDUCTING TESTS OF LASER WEAPONS IN SPACE. "IN RECENT YEARS DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS MOUNTED CRASH PROGRAM TO BLUNT SOVIET LEAD IN SOME AREAS OF MILITARY SPACE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT,

INVESTING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO BUILD EVEN MORE SOPHISTICATED HUNTER-KILLERS AND LASER WEAPONS," LYONS REPORTED.
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